

IN THE CLAIMS

Applicant here presents all claims, claims 1 through 43, including the status of each claim in the application, and amendments thereto as indicated by the following:

1. (original) A safety shield for a needle assembly with a needle and a luer hub, comprising

a cover including an elongate channel and a retainer engageable with the needle assembly with the elongate channel positioned over the needle;

a mount including a socket to rigidly retain the luer hub of the needle assembly;

a hinge, the cover being mounted to the mount by the hinge with the elongate channel extending longitudinally from the hinge;

a flexible tear strip extending over the channel, enclosing the needle within the channel.

2. (currently amended) The safety shield of claim 1, the mount further having an ~~open~~ access end providing access to the end of the luer hub.

3. (currently amended) The safety shield of claim 2 further comprising an end piece extending across the ~~open~~ access end and a frangible sealing web between the mount and the end piece

4. (original) The safety shield of claim 1 further comprising a frangible locking web extending between the cover and the mount.

5. (original) The safety shield of claim 4, the cover having at least a first side deformable inwardly to fracture the frangible locking web between the cover and the mount.

6. (original) The safety shield of claim 1, the retainer being within the channel.

7. (original) The safety shield of claim 6, the retainer having a finger fixed to the cover and engageable with the needle assembly.

8. (original) The safety shield of claim 6, the retainer having opposed fingers fixed to the cover and engageable with the needle assembly.

9. (currently amended) A safety shield for a needle assembly with a needle and a luer hub, comprising

a cover including an elongate channel and a retainer engageable with the needle assembly with the elongate channel positioned over the needle;

a mount including a socket to rigidly retain the luer hub of the needle assembly and an ~~open~~ access end providing access to the end of the luer hub;

a hinge, the cover being mounted to the mount by the hinge with the elongate channel extending longitudinally from the hinge;

an end piece extending across the ~~open~~ access end;

a frangible sealing web between the mount and the end piece.

10. (original) A safety shield for a needle assembly with a needle and a luer hub, comprising

a needle cover including an elongate first channel;

a mount retaining the luer hub including a second channel aligned with the elongate first channel;

a ~~living~~ hinge pivotally coupling the needle cover and the mount between the needle cover and the mount;

a frangible locking web extending between the cover and the mount from both sides of the ~~living~~ hinge to the edges of the first and second channels, the ~~living~~ hinge

and the frangible locking web being continuously impervious between the cover and the mount.

11. (currently amended) The safety shield of claim 10[[,]] further comprising a flexible tear strip affixed to the edges of the elongate first channel and the second channel and to the frangible locking web at the edges of the elongate first channel and the second channel, enclosing the needle within the elongate first channel

12. (original) A safety shield for a needle assembly with a needle and a luer hub, comprising

a cover including an elongate channel and a retainer engageable with the needle assembly with the elongate channel positioned over the needle;

a mount including a socket to rigidly retain the luer hub of the needle assembly;

a hinge, the cover being mounted to the mount by the hinge with the elongate channel extending longitudinally from the hinge;

a frangible locking web extending between the cover and the mount.

13. (original) The safety shield of claim 12, the channel having at least a first side deformable inwardly to fracture the frangible locking web between the cover and the mount.

14. (original) The safety shield of claim 12, the hinge being a living hinge.

15. (original) The safety shield of claim 12 further comprising an engagement including a first element on the cover and a second element on the mount, the first and second elements being engageable with the cover pivoted to lie in juxtaposition with the mount.

16. (original) A safety shield for a needle assembly with a needle and a luer hub, comprising

a shield body generally forming an elongate open cavity and including a cover, a mount and a hinge, the cover being mounted to the mount by the hinge and having an elongate first channel extending longitudinally from the hinge and a retainer engageable with the needle assembly with the elongate first channel positioned over the needle, the mount having a second channel with a socket therein to rigidly retain the luer hub of the needle assembly;

a flexible tear strip extending over the cavity, closing the first and second channels and enclosing the needle within the cover with the luer hub in the socket.

17. (currently amended) The safety shield of claim 16, the mount further including an ~~open~~ access end providing access to the end of the luer hub.

18. (currently amended) The safety shield of claim 17, the shield body further including an end piece extending across the ~~open~~ access end of the mount and a frangible web between the mount and the end piece, the flexible tear strip extending to the end piece and sealing the elongate cavity along with the end piece.

19. (original) The safety shield of claim 16 the shield body further including a frangible locking web extending between the cover and the mount and from the hinge on both sides to the flexible tear strip.

20. (original) The safety shield of claim 19, the channel having at least a first side deformable inwardly to fracture the frangible locking web between the cover and the mount.

21. (original) The safety shield of claim 19, the hinge being a living hinge.

22. (currently amended) A safety shield for a needle assembly with a needle and a luer hub, comprising

a shield body generally forming an elongate open cavity and including a cover, a mount, a hinge and an end piece, the cover being mounted to the mount by the hinge and having an elongate first channel extending longitudinally from the hinge and a retainer engageable with the needle assembly with the elongate first channel positioned over the needle, the mount having a second channel with a socket therein to rigidly retain the luer hub of the needle assembly and an ~~open~~ access end providing access to the end of the luer hub, the end piece extending across the ~~open~~ access end of the mount and a frangible sealing web between the mount and the end piece;

a flexible tear strip extending over the open cavity, closing the first and second channels and enclosing the needle within the cover with the luer hub in the socket, the flexible tear strip extending to the end piece and sealing the open cavity along with the end piece.

23. (original) The safety shield of claim 22 the shield body further including a frangible locking web extending between the cover and the mount and from the hinge on both sides to the flexible tear strip.

24. (original) The safety shield of claim 23, the cover having at least a first side deformable inwardly to fracture the frangible locking web between the cover and the mount.

25. (original) The safety shield of claim 23, the hinge being a living hinge.

26. (original) A safety shield and needle assembly comprising
a needle;

a luer hub, the needle extending from the luer hub;

a cover including an elongate channel with a closed end portion and a retainer engageable with the needle with the elongate channel positioned over the needle;

a mount including a socket to rigidly retain the luer;

a hinge, the cover being mounted to the mount by the hinge with the elongate channel extending longitudinally from the hinge;

a flexible tear strip extending over the channel,. enclosing the needle within the channel.

27. (original) The safety shield and needle assembly of claim 26, the cover further including a bevel to the closed end portion on the surface opposite the elongate channel, the needle being sharpened on a bevel facing the same direction as the cover bevel.

28. (currently amended) The safety shield and needle assembly of claim 26, the mount further having an ~~open~~ access end providing access to the end of the luer hub.

29. (currently amended) The safety shield and needle assembly of claim 28 further comprising

an end piece extending across the ~~open~~ access end and a frangible sealing web between the mount and the end piece.

30. (original) The safety shield and needle assembly of claim 26 further comprising

a frangible locking web extending between the cover and the mount.

31. (original) A safety shield and needle assembly comprising

a needle;

a luer hub, the needle extending from the luer hub;

a cover including an elongate channel with a closed end portion and a retainer engageable with the needle with the elongate channel positioned over the needle;

a mount including a socket to rigidly retain the luer;

a hinge, the cover being mounted to the mount by the hinge with the elongate channel extending longitudinally from the hinge;

a frangible locking web extending between the cover and the mount.

32. (original) The safety shield and needle assembly of claim 31, the cover further including a bevel to the closed end portion on the surface opposite the elongate channel, the needle being sharpened on a bevel facing the same direction as the cover bevel.

33. (currently amended) The safety shield and needle assembly of claim 31, the mount further having an ~~open~~ access end providing access to the end of the luer hub.

34. (currently amended) The safety shield and needle assembly of claim 33 further comprising

an end piece extending across the ~~open~~ access end and a frangible sealing web between the mount and the end piece.

35. (original) The safety shield and needle assembly of claim 31 further comprising

a frangible locking web extending between the cover and the mount.

36. (currently amended) A safety shield and needle assembly comprising

a needle;

a luer hub, the needle extending from the luer hub;

a shield body generally forming an elongate open cavity and including a cover, a mount, a hinge and an end piece, the cover being mounted to the mount by the hinge and having an elongate first channel extending longitudinally from the hinge and a retainer engageable with the needle assembly with the elongate first channel positioned over the needle, the mount having a second channel with a socket therein to rigidly retain the luer hub of the needle assembly and an ~~open~~ access end providing access to the end of the luer hub, the end piece extending across the ~~open~~ access end of the mount and a frangible sealing web between the mount and the end piece;

a flexible tear strip extending over the open cavity, closing the first and second channels and enclosing the needle within the cover with the luer hub in the socket, the flexible tear strip extending to the end piece and sealing the open cavity along with the end piece.

37. (original) The safety shield and needle assembly of claim 36, the cover further including a bevel to the closed end portion on the surface opposite the elongate channel, the needle being sharpened on a bevel facing the same direction as the cover bevel.

38. (original) The safety shield and needle assembly of claim 36 the shield body further including a frangible locking web extending between the cover and the mount and from the hinge.

39. (original) The safety shield and needle assembly of claim 38, the cover having at least a first side deformable inwardly to fracture the frangible locking web between the cover and the mount.

40. (original) The safety shield and needle assembly of claim 38, the hinge being a living hinge.

41. (new) A safety shield for a needle assembly with a needle and a luer hub, comprising

a needle cover including an elongate first channel;

a mount retaining the luer hub including a second channel aligned with the elongate first channel and having an access end;

a hinge pivotally coupling the needle cover and the mount between the needle cover and the mount;

a frangible locking web extending between the cover and the mount from both sides of the hinge to the edges of the first and second channels, the hinge and the frangible locking web being continuously impervious between the cover and the mount;

an end piece extending across the access end;

a frangible sealing web between the mount and the end piece;

a flexible tear strip affixed to the edges of the elongate first channel, the edges of the second channel and the end piece, enclosing the needle assembly within the needle cover and mount.

42. (new) The safety shield for a needle assembly of claim 41, the hinge being a living hinge.

43. (new) The safety shield of claim 10, the hinge being a living hinge.